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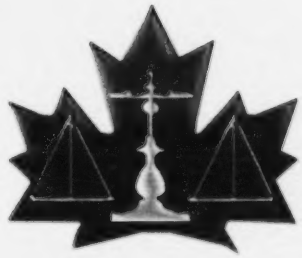
Juristat

Young adult offenders in Canada, 2014



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.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Young adult offenders in Canada, 2014: highlights

- Police-reported data show that young adults aged 18 to 24 have the highest rates of criminal offending of any age group. In 2014, there were over 183,000 young adults accused of crimes by police, representing a rate of 5,428 individuals accused per 100,000 young adults. In comparison, the rates of accused for youth aged 12 to 17 (4,322 per 100,000 youth) as well as for adults aged 25 to 29 (4,712) and 30 to 34 (4,022) were notably lower.
- Between 2009 and 2014, the rate of all individuals accused of crime by police in Canada fell 22%. Over this timeframe, the overall rate for young adults accused declined 31%. However, the drop was greatest among young adults aged 18 and 19 (-37%), similar to that for youth aged 12 to 17 (-39%). The drop among 20- to 24-year-old young adults accused of crime was slightly smaller (-24%), but still greater than for adults aged 25 to 29 (-10%) and those aged 30 and older (-10%).
- The criminal offences most frequently committed by young adults were theft of $5,000 or under (727 per 100,000 young adults), common assault (682 per 100,000 young adults), and mischief (585 per 100,000 young adults). Almost one quarter of young adults accused of crime were accused in offences against the administration of justice (1,286 per 100,000 young adults)—primarily failure to comply with the conditions of a sentence, breach of probation and failure to appear. In addition, rates of individuals accused of cannabis possession were also high among young adults (747 per 100,000).
- Rates of individuals accused of homicide and attempted murder, as well as assault (levels 1, 2 and 3), were highest among young adults compared to older adults and youth. In addition, young adults had the highest rates of mischief, disturbing the peace, *Criminal Code* traffic violations (primarily impaired driving), and "other" *Criminal Code* offences.
- As a group, young adults had the highest rates of drug offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. Two-thirds (67%) of all young adults accused in drug crimes were accused of cannabis possession. While cannabis possession peaked at age 18 in 2014, the rates of individuals accused of non-cannabis drug offences peaked later at age 21.
- Although property crimes, such as theft of $5,000 or under, were common among young adults, they were generally more frequent among youth. Youth aged 12 to 17 had higher rates than young adults for many property crimes, most notably break and enter and theft of $5,000 or under. Youth also had higher rates than young adults for robbery and uttering threats. In addition, youth had the highest accused rates for sexual assault level 1 and sexual violations against children.
- Police-reported data show that, in 2014, overall criminal offending in Canada peaked at age 17 and then declined steadily with age, but the nature of the age-crime distribution differed by type of offence. For some offences, most notably theft of $5,000 or under, break and enter, uttering threats, robbery, motor vehicle theft, and sexual offences, accused rates peaked among youth before age 18, and were considerably lower by age 25.
- Rates of homicide and attempted murder as well as major assault, mischief, and cannabis possession peaked among young adults, but were notably lower by age 30. For other crimes, offending declined with age, but the aging-out process appeared to be more gradual. These include common assault, criminal harassment, impaired driving, non-cannabis drug offences, as well as disturbing the peace.
- The Territories show a notable variation from the association between criminal offending and age shown nationally. Instead, the rate of individuals accused of crime in the territories in 2014 peaked at age 24 and continued to remain high until about age 50. This is mainly the result of high rates of non-violent offences, primarily mischief and disturbing the peace.

Young adult offenders in Canada, 2014

by Mary Allen

Together, young adults aged 18 to 24 and youth aged 12 to 17 account for over one-third of individuals accused in police-reported criminal incidents. While rates of youth accused of crime are higher than among adults in general, young adults—those adults aged 18 to 24—were accused of crime at higher rates than any other age group (Allen and Superle 2016). Since most offenders first commit crimes when they are young (Piquero et al. 2012), understanding crime among youth and young adults is an important part of finding ways to reduce crime overall.

Under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (*YCJA*), youth aged 12 to 17 who are accused of crime are treated under the law in a manner that takes into account their reduced level of maturity and responsibility. Young people are considered adults under the law once they turn 18, and are entering a period of major life transitions. The Youth in Transition Survey found that, by age 26 to 28, 81% of young adults had participated in some form of postsecondary education and nearly 70% were employed full-time. In addition, about half of young adults aged 26 to 28 were in or had been in a relationship, and nearly a quarter (30% of females and 18% of males) had children (Shaienks et al. 2009).

Research has noted that an "aging out" of criminal behaviour is associated with life transitions such as employment and marriage, changing peer groups and a changing social environment (Farrington et al. 2012; Sweeten et al. 2013). Of note, some research into brain development suggests that young adults have not yet fully matured, and that their brains and the executive functions governing behaviour do not fully develop until about age 25 (Blakemore and Choudhury 2006; Steinberg et al. 2015).

A number of studies have examined the relationship between age and crime, and the factors that influence whether young people continue to offend (persist), or stop offending (desist) as they enter adulthood (Farrington et al. 2012; Piquero et al. 2012; Ulmer and Steffensmeier 2014). As noted above, many life transitions reduce the likelihood of offending; however involvement in the justice system—particularly incarceration and long sentences—has been shown to disrupt transitions into the adult roles associated with desistence from crime and is associated with repeat offending (Massoglia and Uggen 2010; Holman and Zeidenburg 2013; Wilson and Hoge 2013).

This *Juristat* uses police-reported data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) to examine the nature of crime committed by young adults, and how it compares to crime among youth and older adults. It also examines changes in rates of offending as young people develop from adolescence to young adulthood and transition through their 20s.

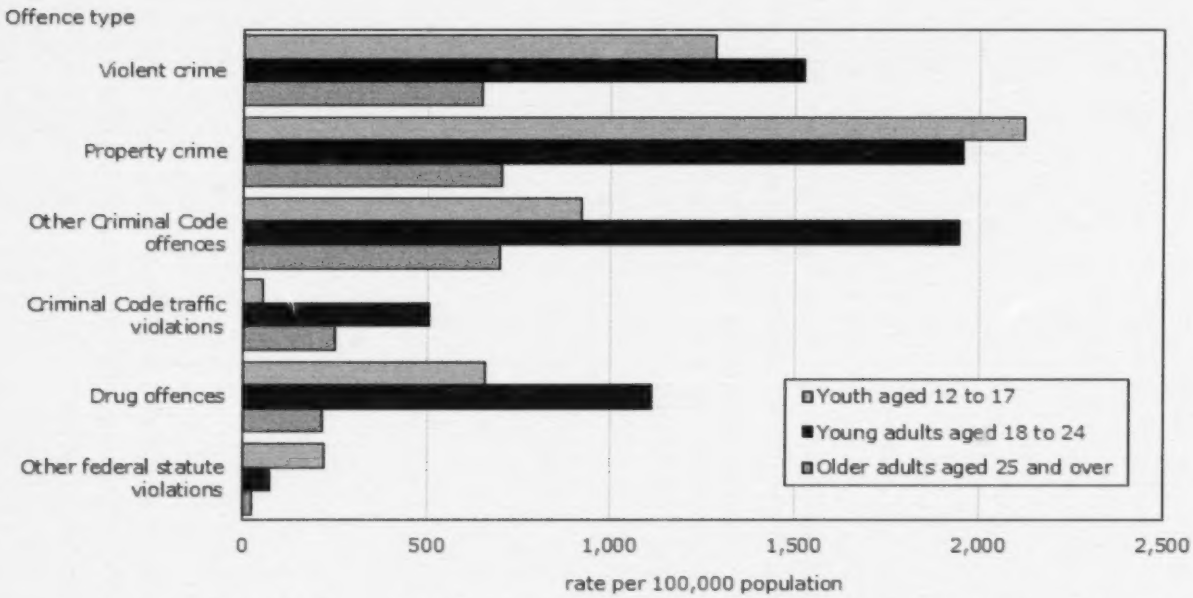
Rates of young adult crime

Young adults aged 18 to 24 have the highest rates of criminal offending

Police-reported data show that young adults aged 18 to 24 have the highest rates of criminal offending of any age group. In 2014, there were over 183,000 young adults accused in police-reported criminal incidents, a rate of 5,428 individuals accused per 100,000 young adults.[1] In comparison, the rates of accused for youth aged 12 to 17 (4,322 per 100,000 youth) as well as for adults aged 25 to 29 (4,712) and 30 to 34 (4,022) were notably lower (Table 1).

Relative to other age groups, young adults had the highest rates of violent crime, drug offences, and "other" *Criminal Code* offences (primarily disturbing the peace and offences against the administration of justice) (Chart 1). They did not, however, have the highest rates of property crime, which were held by youth. In addition, rates of other federal statute violations (other than drug offences) were highest among youth because these are primarily violations under the *YCJA*, generally related to the administration of justice.

Chart 1
Rate of persons accused of selected offences, by age group of accused and offence type, 2014



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population in each age group. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Excludes accused where age is over 89. See table 1 for a list of offences comprising each offence type.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014.

About one in four young adults accused is a female

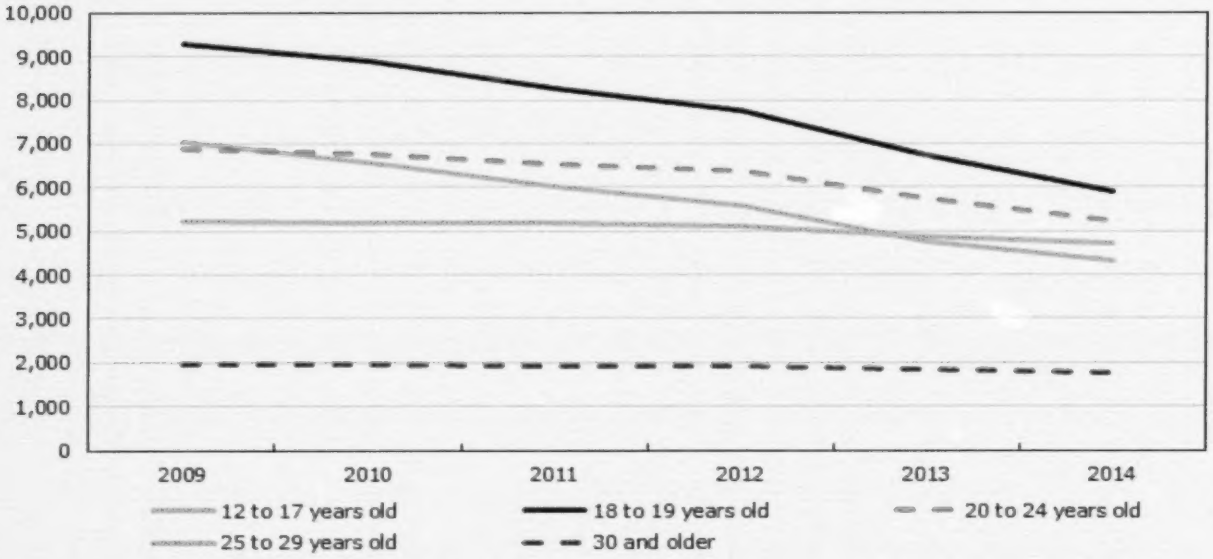
Females comprised about one in four (24%) young adults accused of crime in 2014, the same proportion as among older adults. However, women made up higher proportions of young adults accused of theft of $5,000 or under (36%) and common assault (level 1) (30%).

Police-reported crime by young adults declining faster than crime overall

Like youth crime (where accused are aged 12 to 17), police-reported crime by young adults has been dropping steadily and at a faster rate than the drop in the overall crime rate. This was particularly pronounced among 18- and 19-year-olds (Chart 2).

Between 2009 and 2014, the rate of all individuals accused of crime by police in Canada fell 22%.[2] Over this timeframe, the rate of young adults aged 18 to 24 accused of crime declined 31%. The drop in rate was greatest among young adults aged 18 and 19 (-37%), similar to that for youth (-39%). The decrease among 20- to 24-year-olds was slightly smaller (-24%), but still greater than for 25- to 29-year-olds (-10%) as well as for adults aged 30 and older (-10%) (Chart 2).

Chart 2
Decline in rate of individuals accused of crime, by age group, 2009 to 2014



Note: Rates are for total *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic). Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population in each age group. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Excludes accused where age is over 89.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Trend Database.

Nature of crime committed by young adults

As with police-reported youth crime, the criminal offences most frequently committed by young adults aged 18 to 24 were theft of $5,000 or under (727 per 100,000 young adults), common assault (682 per 100,000 young adults), and mischief (585 per 100,000 young adults). Almost one-quarter of young adults accused of crime were accused in offences against the administration of justice (1,286 per 100,000 young adults)—primarily failure to comply with the conditions of a sentence, breach of probation, and failure to appear. Among young adults accused of criminal offences, 28% were accused in violent incidents.

In addition to offences under the *Criminal Code*, rates of individuals accused of drug offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* were also high among young adults (1,108 per 100,000). Two-thirds (67%) of these young adults were accused of cannabis possession (747 per 100,000).

Most violent criminal incidents (60%) involving a young adult accused occurred in a private residence. Another 22% of incidents with young adult accused occurred in a street or open place, and 11% in a commercial establishment. Among property crimes involving a young adult accused, 42% occurred in a residence, another 38% occurred in a commercial establishment, and 15% in a street or open place.

Weapons (such as knives, firearms, or clubs or blunt instruments) were slightly more likely to be present in violent incidents involving young adult accused, in comparison to incidents where no young adult was accused (20% vs. 16%).[3] Regardless of the age of the accused, very few criminal incidents in 2014 involved a firearm. A firearm was present in 2.4% of violent incidents involving at least one young adult accused, and 1.6% of violent incidents involving no young adults accused.[4]

Young adults have the highest rates of homicide/attempted murder and assault

Compared to youth and older adults, young adults had the highest police-reported accused rates for many of the most serious violent offences in 2014. Rates of individuals accused of homicide and attempted murder, as well as assault (levels 1, 2, and 3), were highest among young adults (Table 1).[5]

In addition, young adults had the highest rates of cannabis-related drug offences, mischief, disturbing the peace, *Criminal Code* traffic violations (primarily impaired driving), and "other" *Criminal Code* offences (primarily weapons possession and obstructing a public peace officer) compared to older adults and youth.[6]

Young adults also had the highest rates of violations against the administration of justice. It is worth noting that many administration of justice offences for youth (such as failure to comply with conditions) fall under the *YCJA*, and are therefore reported separately as a violation of that federal statute (and not of the *Criminal Code*). However, the rate of accused for young adults accused of administration of justice offences (1,286 per 100,000 young adults) exceeds the combined rates of youth accused of criminal violations against the administration of justice and violations under the *YCJA* (565 and 207 per 100,000 youth, respectively).

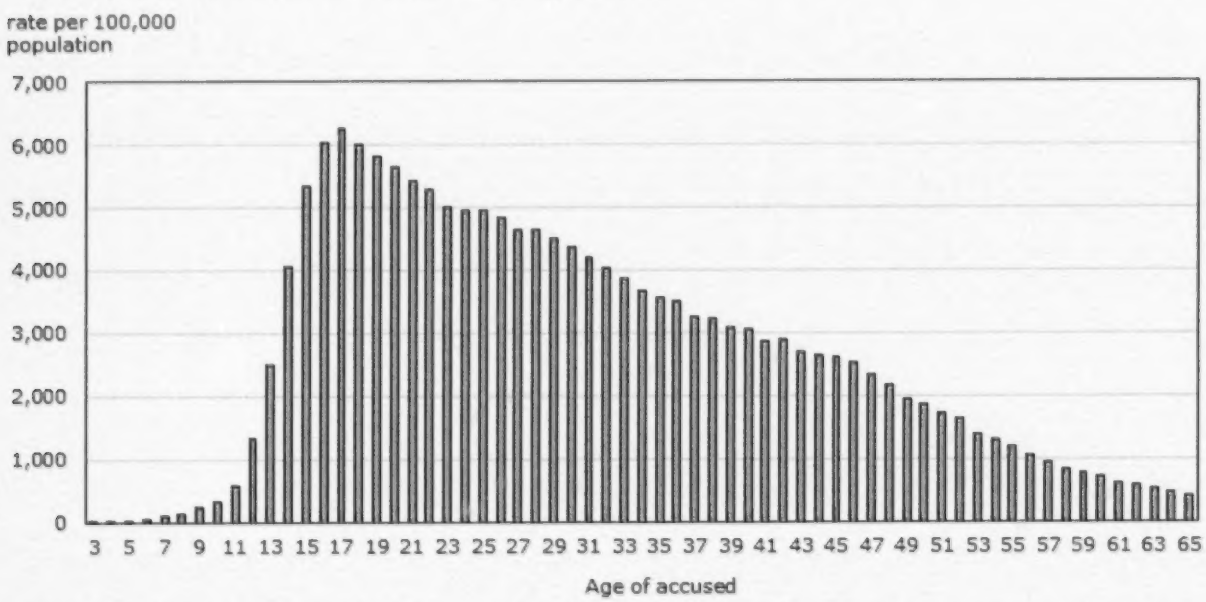
Although property crimes such as theft of $5,000 or under were still fairly common among young adults, they were generally more frequent among youth. Youth aged 12 to 17 had higher rates than young adults for many property crimes, most notably break and enter and theft of $5,000 or under. Youth also had higher rates than young adults for robbery and uttering threats in 2014. In addition, youth had the highest accused rates for sexual assault level 1 and sexual violations against children. This was also the case in previous years (Allen and Superle 2016) and has been noted in research from the United States (Finkelhor et al. 2009).

Only for criminal harassment, "other violent" *Criminal Code* violations, fraud (including identity theft and identity fraud) and impaired driving were the accused rates for some older adult age groups higher than for young adults, with the highest rates generally found among adults aged 25 to 29.[7] This age group also had rates of accused of theft over $5,000 and other *Criminal Code* traffic violations that were similar to those of young adults. Accused rates for criminal harassment, however, were highest among older adults aged 30 to 34.

Police-reported crime rate peaks at age 17 and declines steadily through young adulthood, but this differs by offence type

The police-reported rate of individuals accused of crime in 2014 increased with age in the teen years and peaked among 17-year-olds. Offending then declined rapidly among young adults (Chart 3). This is consistent with research literature showing that criminal behaviour tends to decline as individuals mature into adulthood (Farrington et al. 2012; Massoglia and Uggen 2010; Piquero et al. 2012; Sweeten et al. 2013; Ulmer and Steffensmeier 2014).

Chart 3
Rates of individuals accused of crime, by age, 2014

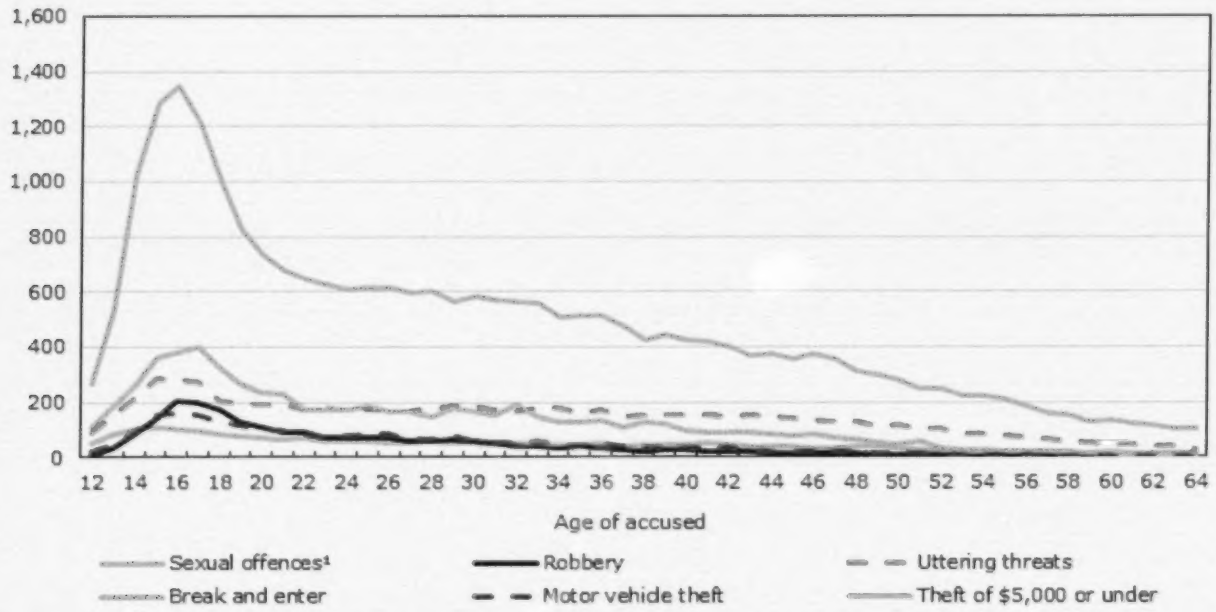


Note: Rates are for all *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic). Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population at each age. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Accused under age 12 cannot be charged with an offence under the *Criminal Code*.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014.

However, the differences in criminal offending by age are not the same for all offences (Table 2). Instead, the ages at which offending peaks, and the period of aging out that follows, differ considerably between types of crime (Charts 4 to 7). Some offences peak in youth and decline rapidly with age, and others peak later in young adulthood but also decline relatively quickly with age. Some offences, however, peak in young adulthood but remain relatively high later into adulthood.

For individuals accused of sexual offences, robbery, uttering threats, break and enter, motor vehicle theft, and theft of $5,000 or under (offences where the highest rates were among youth), the highest accused rates occurred before age 18 and were much lower by age 25 (Chart 4). For example, accused rates for the most common of these offences, theft of $5,000 or under, were highest among 16-year-olds in 2014. That same year, rates of those aged 25 accused of this offence type were 54% lower than among 16-year-olds.

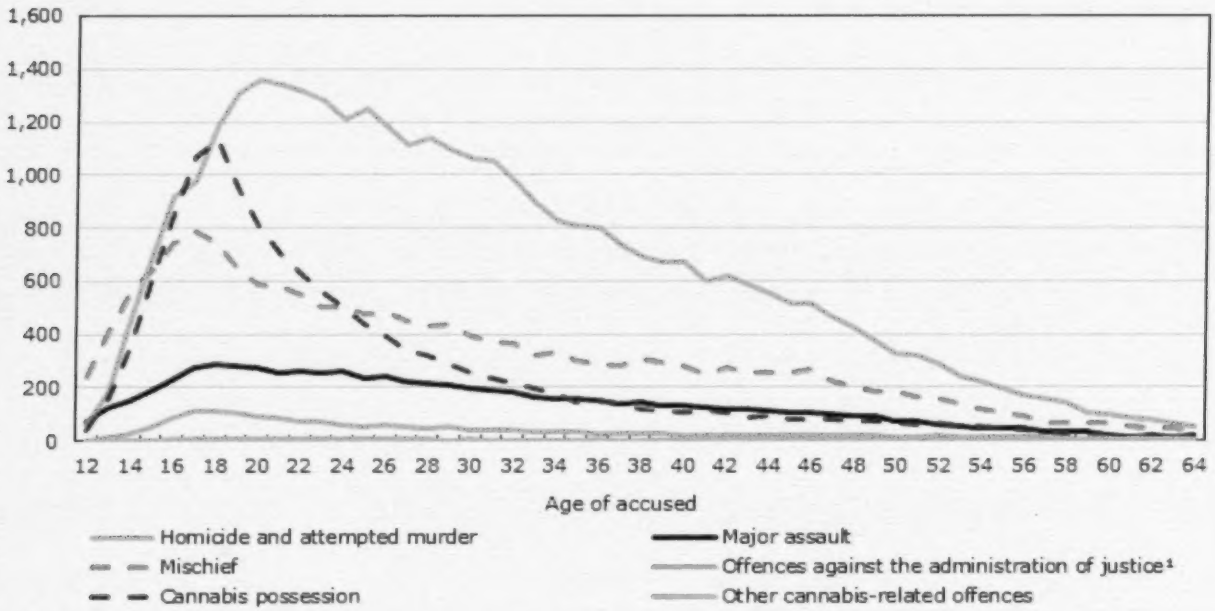
Chart 4
Selected offences which peak during youth and decline rapidly with age, 2014



1. Sexual offences include sexual assault (levels 1, 2, and 3) as well as sexual violations against children.
Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population at each age in 2014. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Accused under age 12 cannot be charged with an offence under the *Criminal Code*.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014.

Other offences peaked later, in young adulthood, and also showed a relatively rapid aging out, suggested by lower rates by age 30 (Chart 5). The rate of homicide and attempted murder was highest among 20-year-olds in 2014 (10.7 per 100,000), but was about half that rate (5.3) at age 30.[8] Similar declines can be seen for major assault and cannabis possession (which peak at age 18). In the case of mischief and other cannabis-related drug offences (which peak at age 17), most of the decline by age 30 occurs during young adulthood (40% and 52% lower at age 25).[9] Rates for administrative justice offences peaked at age 20 and then declined with age at a relatively steady rate.

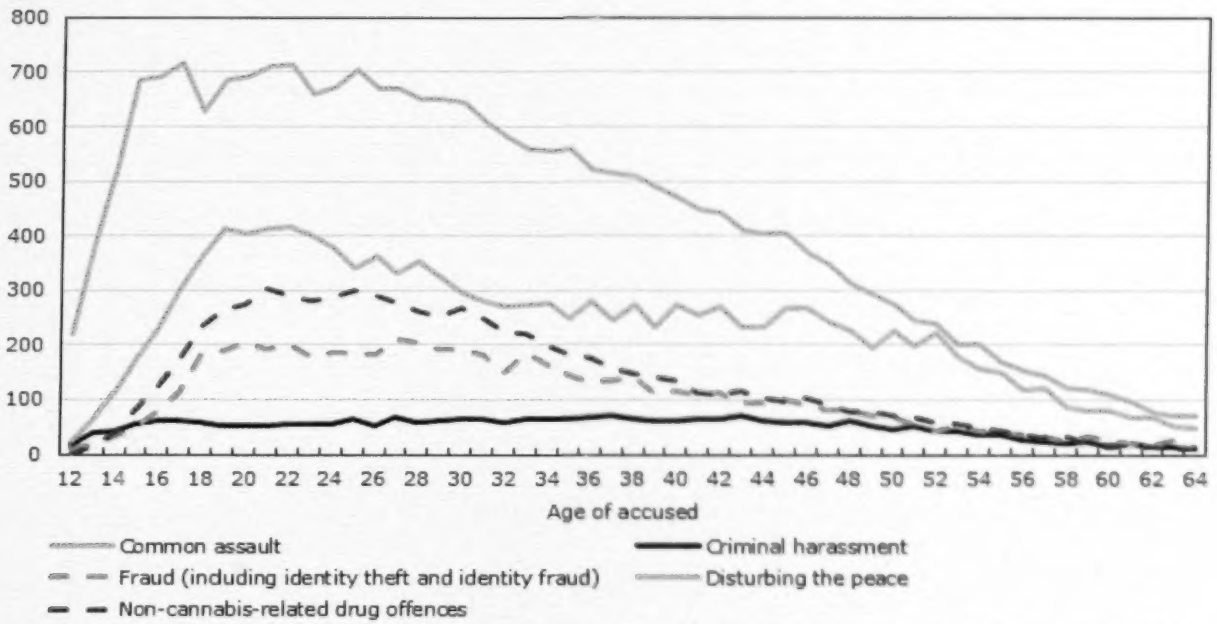
Chart 5
Selected offences which peak during young adulthood and decline rapidly with age, 2014



1. Includes failure to comply with an order, failure to appear, breach of probation and other violations against the administration of law and justice.
Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population at each age in 2014. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Accused under age 12 cannot be charged with an offence under the *Criminal Code*.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014.

In contrast, other crimes do not show a similarly rapid decline in accused rates by age (Chart 6). For common assault, the most frequent of violent offences for all age groups, accused rates were highest at both age 17 and 22 in 2014,[10] varying little by age 30 (10% lower). Other crimes for which rates remain relatively high at age 30 are criminal harassment (which actually peaked at age 43 in 2014), fraud (including identity theft and identity fraud), and non-cannabis-related drug offences (peaking at age 27 and 21, respectively). The rate of accused for disturbing the peace was 29% lower at age 30 than at the peak age of 22, but continued to be relatively high to about age 50.

Chart 6
Selected offences which peak during young adulthood and decline gradually with age, 2014



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population at each age in 2014. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Accused under age 12 cannot be charged with an offence under the *Criminal Code*.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014.

Geographic difference in the age-distribution of crime

Geographic differences in young adult crime generally reflect differences in overall crime

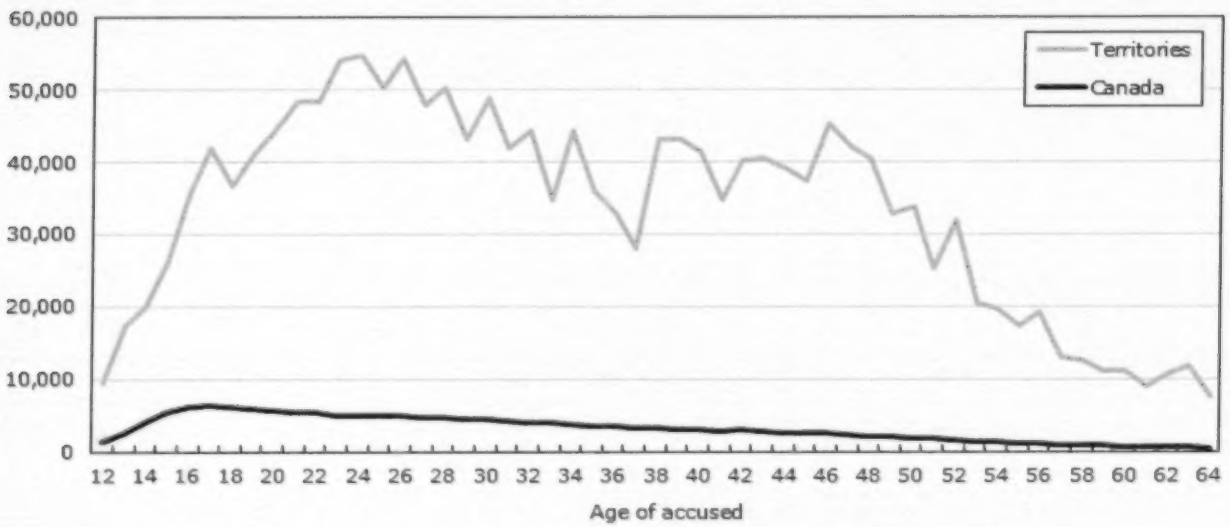
In 2014, the rate of young adults accused of crime was lowest in Ontario (3,881), Quebec (3,890), Prince Edward Island (4,391), British Columbia (4,628), and New Brunswick (4,811). As with overall police-reported crime, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Territories reported the highest rates of young adult crime. Crime rates among young adults were higher than for other age groups in all provinces and territories except in New Brunswick, where youth were more likely to be accused of crime (Table 3 and Table 4).

Rate of offending peaks at age 17 and declines steadily with age in all provinces, but not in the Territories

As shown earlier, the rate of criminal offending in Canada peaked at age 17 and then declined steadily with age. Research shows that this inverse relationship between age and criminal activity is seen in most countries and time periods, with some variations (Ulmer and Steffensmeier 2014). In Canada, the Territories (combined) show a notable variation from this pattern.[11] Instead of peaking among youth and then declining, the rate of individuals accused of crime in the Territories in 2014 peaked at age 24 and continued to remain high until about age 50. In fact, while rates are highest among young adults in most jurisdictions including the Territories, recent research has shown that unlike in the provinces, rates of individuals in the Territories accused of all major types of crime (violent, property and other) were higher among those aged 45 to 54 than among youth aged 12 to 17 (Allen and Perreault 2015).

Nationally, accused rates at age 30 were 30% lower than at age 17, and 51% lower by age 40 than at age 17. However, this was not the case in the Territories, where 30-year-olds were more likely to be accused of crime than 17-year-olds (with rates 17% higher), and only slightly less likely at age 40 (-1%) (Chart 7).

Chart 7
Crime peaks at a later age in the Territories and remains high longer, 2014



Note: Rates are for total *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic). Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population at each age in 2014. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014.

The high rates of criminal offending among older individuals in the Territories are most notable for non-violent criminal offences. Compared to the accused rates at age 17, rates of individuals accused of non-violent crime in the Territories were 17% higher at age 30 and 8% higher at age 40.

For violent crime, there was a decline with age in the Territories, but it peaked later at age 24, followed by a more gradual decline than at the national level. Accused rates for violent crime in the Territories were 15% higher at age 30 than at age 17 (compared to 25% lower nationally). At age 40, however, accused rates were 32% lower than among 17-year-olds (compared to 44% lower nationally).

It is worth noting that high rates of individuals accused of crime in the Territories are primarily attributable to incidents of mischief and disturbing the peace. These two offences account for 64% of individuals accused of crime in the Territories, ranging from 41% of youth accused and 57% of young adult accused to 70% of accused aged 30 and older. In contrast, 18% of the total accused in Canada were involved in incidents of mischief or disturbing the peace, and this varied little with age. More information on crime in the North is available in the *Juristat* on Police-reported crime in Canada's Provincial North and Territories, 2013 (Allen and Perreault 2015).

Summary

Young adults aged 18 to 24 have the highest rates of overall criminal offending of all age groups. As with youth crime, the rate of young adults accused of crime has fallen considerably in recent years (31% between 2009 and 2014) and at a faster pace than accused rates overall (-22%). The most common offences committed by young adults in 2014 were theft of $5,000 or under, cannabis possession, common assault, and mischief, as well as offences against the administration of justice.

Generally speaking, police-reported rates of criminal offending peak at age 17, then decline with age. However, this analysis of police-reported data shows that the decline in criminal offending differs by offence. Instead, the ages at which offending peaks, and the period of aging out that follows, differ considerably between types of crime. Some offences peak in youth and decline rapidly with age, and others peak later in young adulthood but also decline relatively quickly with age. Some offences, however, peak in young adulthood but remain relatively high later into adulthood.

While the general pattern of offending by age is reflected in the age-crime distributions for all of the provinces, this is not the case in the Territories. There, criminal offending continues at relatively high rates until about age 50, before beginning to decline. This is mainly the result of non-violent offences, primarily mischief and disturbing the peace.

Definitions and concepts

Measuring young adult crime

Similar to the overall police-reported crime rate, the accused rates presented in this report for youth, young adults and older individuals are comprised of violent crime, property crime, and other *Criminal Code* violations. It is important to note, however, that unlike the overall crime rate, which is based on the number of police-reported criminal incidents per 100,000 population, the accused rate by age group (such as the "youth crime rate") measures the number of individuals in a specific age group accused in a police-reported criminal incident per 100,000 population in that same age group. In this report it is commonly referred to as the accused rate or rate of individuals accused of crimes.

Individuals accused of crimes by police may or may not be charged in the incident. Accused rates therefore include individuals who are charged as well as those who are not charged, but rather cleared through departmental discretion, because a complaint is withdrawn, or through alternative measures (such as those available for youth under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act).*

The age-specific police-reported accused rates presented in this report for total crime, like the overall crime rate, do not include *Criminal Code* traffic offences or offences under other Federal Statutes such as drug offences or violations of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. Information on these offences is presented separately in this analysis.

It should also be noted that the accused rates count accused in each incident. Therefore, an individual accused in more than one criminal incident will be counted more than once in the rate. Similarly, there may be multiple accused counted for a single incident.

Youth crime rates in this report differ slightly from the rates published in CANSIM or other *Juristat* analyses of police-reported crime statistics, as the rates published in the present report are produced from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), which uses a different method for counting accused than the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) used for standard dissemination of crime statistics. See the Survey description section for more information.

Interpreting the age-crime distribution

The age-crime distribution presented in this report represents the distribution of police-reported crime by age of accused. For the most part, the age-crime distributions approximate changes in offending behaviour for different age cohorts over time, showing the increase in criminal activity for youth through their teens and the aging out of crime in their 20s as explored in much of the research. However, it should be noted that the age-crime distributions presented here are based on cross-sectional information and do not take into account the downward trend in crime which may have an impact on the progression of criminal offending for specific age cohorts. For example, in 2013, the crime rate for 16- and 17-year-olds was 6,630 and 6,874, respectively. In 2014, it was 6,028 and 6,236. In both years, 17-year-olds had a higher rate of offending than 16-year-olds. However, the rate of offending for the cohort of youth aged 16 in 2013 did not increase when they turned 17 in 2014, but in fact declined. Readers should therefore avoid interpreting this analysis as a direct representation of the progression of criminal offending for specific age cohorts, nor as a representation of the criminal behaviour of individuals as they age. Rather, the age-crime distribution provides an approximation of this phenomenon.

Key terminology and definitions

Accused: An accused person is someone against whom enough information exists to lay a charge in connection with a criminal incident/offence.

Age groups: Youth are aged 12 to 17. Young adults are 18 to 24 years of age. Older adults are aged 25 to 89. Accused persons and victims aged 90 years and older are considered of 'unknown' age, due to the possible miscoding of age within this age category.

Most serious violation: Individuals accused of crime are categorized by the most serious violation occurring in the police-reported incident in which they are accused. In incidents with multiple accused involving multiple violations, each individual in the incident will be coded with the most serious violation even if this was not the violation(s) that the person was accused of. It is therefore possible that the most serious violation is not the offence for which an individual was accused, but one

committed by another accused in the incident. Moreover, in this type of incident, any charges against the accused may be for less serious offences in the incident.

Violent offences: Involve the use or threatened use of violence against a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, and robbery. Robbery is considered a violent offence because, unlike other theft offences, it involves the use or threat of violence. See Table 1 for a list of selected offences in this category.

- **Homicide:** Includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide. Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide, accidental or justifiable homicides are not included in this classification.
- **Assault (physical):** Refers to the *Criminal Code* categories of physical assault.
    - **Common assault:** Includes the *Criminal Code* category assault (level 1) which includes pushing, slapping, punching, and face-to-face verbal threats.
    - **Major assault:** Includes *Criminal Code* assaults levels 2 and 3:
    - **Level 2–assault with a weapon:** Involves carrying, using or threatening to use a weapon against someone or causing someone bodily harm, i.e. assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm.
    - **Level 3–aggravated assault**: Involves wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of someone.
    - **Other assaults:** Includes other forms of physical assault including: unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, using firearm/imitation of firearm in commission of offence, pointing a firearm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to or causing bodily harm, and other assaults.
- **Sexual assault:** Is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1, the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2, sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3, sexual assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
- **Sexual violations against children:** Include *Criminal Code* violations that specifically concern offences involving child and youth victims. These include sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, making sexually explicit material available to children for the purpose of facilitating sexual offences against children/youth, and luring a child via a computer/agreement or arrangement. Excludes incidents of sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 against children and youth which are counted within those three violation categories.
- **Other sexual offences** not involving assault or sexual violations against children are included with "other violent offences".

Property offences: Involve unlawful acts to gain property, but do not involve the use or threat of violence against the person. They include offences such as break and enter, theft, and mischief. See Table 1 for a list of selected offences in this category.

"Other" *Criminal Code* offences: Include crimes such as disturbing the peace and offences against the administration of justice such as failure to comply with an order, failure to appear, or breach of probation.

Drug-related offences: Include offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* such as importation, exportation, trafficking, production and possession of drugs or narcotics. Examples include cannabis/marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and other drugs such as crystal meth, PCP, LSD and ecstasy.

Other federal statute violations: Include violations of federal statutes other than the *Criminal Code* and the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. These include violations of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

Survey description

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey

The UCR Survey was developed in 1962 with the cooperation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. UCR Survey data reflects reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation from all separate federal, provincial, and municipal police services in Canada. There are currently two versions of the UCR Survey: aggregate and incident-based microdata.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The Incident-based UCR2 Survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report (including all data in the tables) is based on Incident-based Survey counts. Police services switch over from the Aggregate to the Incident-based Survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail. Coverage of the UCR2 Survey for 2014 represented 99.6% of the population in Canada.

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Trend Database

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends from 2009 to 2014 in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and accused-victim relationships. This database includes respondents accounting for 99.2% of the population of Canada in 2014.

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Notes

1. Throughout this report, the total crime rate excludes *Criminal Code* traffic violations. Data presented here is based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. See the Survey description section for more information.

2. This parallels the 22% drop in the official crime rate over the same period. The official crime rate measures the total number of criminal incidents per 100,000 population, whether or not an accused has been identified.

3. Weapons include all weapons such as firearms, knives, clubs or blunt instruments, poison, motor vehicles, ligature, or fire. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of incidents where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

4. Incidents where no young adult was accused include those involving either older adult (aged 25 and older) or youth accused (or both), as well as a limited number of incidents where the only accused were under age 12. Excludes all incidents where the age of any accused in the incident was unknown or over age 89. Similar percentages were cited for weapons use in incidents involving youth in the *Juristat* on youth crime (Allen and Superle 2016). It should be noted that many incidents involving youth accused may also involve young adult accused. Therefore these results are not comparable, but will include many of the same incidents.

5. Homicide and attempted murder are combined due to small numbers of accused by age group.

6. Adults aged 25 to 29 had higher rates of *Criminal Code* traffic offences (primarily impaired driving).

7. "Other violent" *Criminal Code* violations include forcible confinement and kidnapping, abduction, extortion, threatening or harassing phone calls, and other violent *Criminal Code* violations.

8. Peak age of accused in all homicides from 2009 to 2014 was 18; the accused rate was 57% lower among 30-year-olds.

9. The peak age of accused for cannabis offences for the period 2009 to 2014 (all years combined) was 18.

10. The peak age of accused for common assault for the period 2009 to 2014 (all years combined) was 17.

11. For the analysis of accused rates by detailed age, information for the three territories is combined due to the small number of accused at each year of age.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Persons accused of crime for selected offences, by age group of accused, Canada, 2014

Type of offence	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Adults aged 25 to 29	Adults aged 30 to 34	Adults aged 35 and older[1]	Total adults[1]	Total accused[2]
	rate per 100,000 population						
Total accused of *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic)	**4,322**	**5,428**	**4,712**	**4,022**	**1,480**	**2,452**	**2,259**
Violent crime							
Homicide and attempted murder[3]	3	9	7	4	2	3	3
Sexual assault - level 3 - aggravated	0[E]	0[E]	1	1	0[E]	0[E]	0[E]
Sexual assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	2	2	1	1	0[E]	1	1
Sexual assault - level 1	73	55	46	39	23	30	29
Sexual violations against children[4, 5]	18	13	8	9	4	6	6
Assault - level 3 - aggravated	10	27	24	14	4	9	8
Assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	167	239	201	166	58	102	93
Assault - level 1	546	682	669	591	227	351	319
Other assaults[6]	39	86	64	46	15	30	27
Robbery	114	104	65	45	9	28	30
Criminal harassment	47	55	61	64	36	43	38
Uttering threats	219	187	175	176	83	112	105
Other violent *Criminal Code* violations[7]	42	64	68	66	26	38	33
Total	**1,281**	**1,524**	**1,390**	**1,223**	**487**	**753**	**693**
Property crime							
Breaking and entering	288	223	169	158	43	86	89
Theft of motor vehicle	108	95	75	54	13	32	33
Theft over $5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	7	12	12	11	5	7	6
Theft of $5,000 or under (non-motor vehicle)	960	727	597	557	230	349	345
Mischief[8]	574	585	454	356	136	236	231
Fraud (including identity theft and fraud)[9]	52	190	195	175	54	93	78
Other property crimes[10]	137	126	108	85	24	49	48
Total	**2,124**	**1,959**	**1,611**	**1,397**	**504**	**851**	**829**
Other *Criminal Code* offences							
Disturbing the peace	156	399	343	280	143	203	173
Administration of justice violations[11]	565	1,286	1,155	962	290	542	470
Other *Criminal Code* offences[12]	196	261	213	161	56	103	96
Total	**918**	**1,945**	**1,710**	**1,403**	**489**	**848**	**738**

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1 — continued
Persons accused of crime for selected offences, by age group of accused, Canada, 2014

Type of offence	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Adults aged 25 to 29	Adults aged 30 to 34	Adults aged 35 and older[1]	Total adults[1]	Total accused[2]
	rate per 100,000 population						
***Criminal Code* traffic violations**							
Impaired driving	21	383	419	335	155	220	177
Other *Criminal Code* traffic violations	32	123	123	103	39	62	52
Total	**53**	**506**	**541**	**438**	**194**	**282**	**229**
Drug offences							
Possession - cannabis	531	747	355	215	53	176	175
Trafficking, production or distribution - cannabis	51	86	53	38	14	28	26
Possession, trafficking, production or distribution - other drugs	75	276	276	231	58	118	99
Total	**657**	**1,108**	**684**	**484**	**125**	**322**	**301**
Other federal statute violations							
Youth Criminal Justice Act	207	33	0[s]	0[s]	0[s]	4	17
Other federal statutes	14	38	44	38	21	27	22
Total	**221**	**71**	**45**	**38**	**21**	**31**	**39**
Total - all violations	**5,253**	**7,113**	**5,982**	**4,982**	**1,821**	**3,087**	**2,828**

0[s] value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
1. Excludes accused where age is over 89.
2. Total accused includes accused under the age of 12 as well as accused where age is unknown or over 89. Accused under age 12 cannot be charged with an offence under the *Criminal Code*.
3. Includes other violations causing death such as criminal negligence causing death as well as attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Homicide and attempted murder are combined due to small numbers of accused by age group.
4. Excludes sexual assaults against children and youth, which are reported as level 1, 2 or 3 sexual assault.
5. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, luring a child via a computer/agreement or arrangement, and (as of 2012) making sexually explicit material available to a child for the purpose of facilitating sexual offences against children/youth.
6. Includes assault against a peace officer, violent firearm offences such as pointing or discharging a firearm, or using a firearm in the commission of an offence, and other assaults.
7. Includes forcible confinement and kidnapping, abduction, extortion, threatening or harassing phone calls and other violent *Criminal Code* violations.
8. Includes altering/removing/destroying a vehicle identification number.
9. Includes fraud, identity theft and identity fraud.
10. Includes possession and trafficking of stolen property and arson.
11. Includes failure to comply with an order, failure to appear, breach of probation and other violations against the administration of justice.
12. Includes non-violent weapons offences, counterfeiting, child pornography, prostitution and other *Criminal Code* violations.
Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population in each age group. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Youth crime rates in this report differ slightly from the rates published in CANSIM or the *Juristat* on police-reported crime statistics as they are produced from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey which uses a different method for counting accused than the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey used for standard dissemination of crime statistics.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014.

Table 2
Persons accused of crime for selected offences, by detailed age group of accused, Canada, 2014

Type of offence	Age of accused							
	12 to 15	16 to 17	18 to 19	20 to 21	22 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 and older
	rate per 100,000 population							
Homicide and attempted murder[1]	1	9	10	10	9	7	4	2
Assault (all types)	617	1,026	1,027	1,054	1,026	957	817	304
Sexual assault (levels 1, 2,3)	70	82	66	57	51	48	41	23
Sexual violations against children[2, 3]	19	17	16	14	11	8	9	4
Robbery	67	201	147	102	79	65	45	9
Uttering threats	188	277	202	191	176	175	176	83
Breaking and entering	231	390	297	234	171	169	158	43
Theft of motor vehicle	81	158	120	101	76	75	54	13
Theft of $5,000 or under (non-motor vehicle)	786	1,278	913	707	627	597	557	230
Mischief[4]	468	767	697	585	517	454	356	136
Disturbing the peace	96	267	389	409	398	343	280	143
Administration of justice violations[5]	358	946	1,249	1,349	1,268	1,155	962	290
Impaired driving	3	55	245	393	460	419	335	155
Possession - cannabis	299	956	1,041	756	561	355	215	53
Trafficking, production or distribution - cannabis	25	99	108	91	68	53	38	14
Possession, trafficking, production or distribution - other drugs	35	148	248	288	285	276	231	58
Youth Criminal Justice Act	123	361	115	6	1	0[s]	0[s]	0[s]
Total accused of *Criminal Code* offences	**3,304**	**6,043**	**5,717**	**5,334**	**4,884**	**4,517**	**3,847**	**1,427**

0[s] value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
1. Includes other violations causing death such as criminal negligence causing death as well as attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Homicide and attempted murder are combined due to small numbers of accused by age group.
2. Excludes sexual assaults against children and youth, which are reported as level 1, 2 or 3 sexual assault.
3. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, luring a child via a computer/agreement or arrangement, and (as of 2012) making sexually explicit material available to a child for the purpose of facilitating sexual offences against children/youth.
4. Includes altering/removing/destroying a vehicle identification number.
5. Includes failure to comply with an order, failure to appear, breach of probation and other violations against the administration of justice.
Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population in each age group. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014.

Table 3
Persons accused of crime, by type of crime, by age group of accused, by province and territory, 2014

Province and territory	Violent crime			Property crime			Other *Criminal Code* offences			Total crime (excluding traffic)		
	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]
	rate per 100,000 population											
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,765	1,778	657	2,115	2,458	739	830	1,690	622	4,710	5,926	2,017
Prince Edward Island	1,030	1,253	435	1,989	2,324	600	440	814	246	3,459	4,391	1,281
Nova Scotia	1,897	2,008	672	2,908	2,650	673	1,216	2,126	576	6,020	6,784	1,920
New Brunswick	1,473	1,516	579	2,444	2,022	477	1,113	1,274	375	5,030	4,811	1,431
Quebec	1,348	1,396	609	1,513	1,334	408	434	1,160	391	3,295	3,890	1,408
Ontario	1,081	1,167	484	1,795	1,518	563	581	1,196	397	3,456	3,881	1,444
Manitoba	2,283	3,244	1,119	3,636	3,444	1,127	1,879	3,864	1,474	7,798	10,552	3,719
Saskatchewan	2,458	3,642	1,340	6,337	5,228	1,757	4,290	8,277	2,416	13,084	17,147	5,513
Alberta	1,303	1,794	855	2,577	2,873	1,096	1,499	3,320	1,334	5,380	7,987	3,285
British Columbia	795	1,187	639	1,550	1,544	701	726	1,898	859	3,071	4,628	2,200
Yukon	5,161	5,977	3,587	8,980	9,698	4,783	8,371	14,503	8,978	22,511	30,179	17,349
Northwest Territories	5,893	10,880	6,330	15,506	26,440	21,004	8,163	17,560	13,967	29,562	54,880	41,301
Nunavut	5,909	14,210	8,895	12,856	21,304	14,242	4,871	14,996	11,059	23,636	50,510	34,196
Canada	**1,281**	**1,524**	**649**	**2,124**	**1,959**	**701**	**918**	**1,945**	**699**	**4,322**	**5,428**	**2,048**

Province and territory	*Criminal Code* traffic violations			Drug offences			Other federal statute violations			Total violations		
	rate per 100,000 population											
Newfoundland and Labrador	53	480	205	201	541	62	229	38	16	5,193	6,985	2,300
Prince Edward Island	10	638	257	170	440	74	220	51	4	3,858	5,519	1,616
Nova Scotia	64	630	284	593	1,173	181	134	24	12	6,811	8,611	2,397
New Brunswick	58	514	242	460	598	114	125	37	18	5,673	5,960	1,805
Quebec	39	559	244	847	988	164	88	20	5	4,268	5,458	1,822
Ontario	28	283	162	610	1,119	200	110	44	16	4,204	5,327	1,822
Manitoba	92	505	249	455	780	147	647	188	20	8,992	12,025	4,135
Saskatchewan	261	1,559	611	739	1,161	224	1,874	671	187	15,958	20,538	6,534
Alberta	94	753	379	498	1,051	236	250	76	18	6,222	9,867	3,919
British Columbia	40	548	324	788	1,532	387	170	66	64	4,069	6,774	2,975
Yukon	284	1,465	744	1,016	1,670	378	3,088	264	58	26,900	33,577	18,529
Northwest Territories	473	2,360	1,025	1,355	2,020	591	725	380	116	32,115	59,640	43,033
Nunavut	213	1,168	633	373	1,062	526	293	21	102	24,514	52,761	35,457
Canada	**53**	**506**	**252**	**657**	**1,108**	**215**	**221**	**71**	**25**	**5,253**	**7,113**	**2,541**

1. Excludes accused where age is over 89.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population in each age group. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Youth crime rates in this report differ slightly from the rates published in CANSIM or the *Juristat* on Police-reported crime statistics as they are produced from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey which uses a different method for counting accused than the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey used for standard dissemination of crime statistics. The administration of the youth justice system is the responsibility of the provinces and territories. Thus, it is important to note that jurisdictional differences in youth crime are, in part, a reflection of the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014.

Table 4
Persons accused of crime for selected offences, by age group of accused, by province and territory, 2014

Province and territory	Assault (all types)			Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, 3)			Sexual offences against children			Robbery		
	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]
	rate per 100,000 population											
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,192	1,177	409	37	71	23	22	28	5	15	97	11
Prince Edward Island	620	784	274	100	51	10	20	15	4	40	59	9
Nova Scotia	1,153	1,350	415	73	52	23	15	16	3	91	85	10
New Brunswick	1,003	1,053	361	69	56	24	13	23	4	25	43	11
Quebec	694	863	359	77	39	19	45	15	6	77	89	17
Ontario	612	746	303	77	52	29	7	9	3	150	107	15
Manitoba	1,518	2,438	786	122	140	57	16	18	5	209	224	37
Saskatchewan	1,697	2,757	976	114	111	44	15	27	6	204	219	21
Alberta	838	1,293	581	75	67	29	12	12	3	85	94	22
British Columbia	503	852	436	36	45	22	17	15	7	69	82	22
Yukon	3,657	4,659	2,446	81	146	148	81	29	19	163	117	35
Northwest Territories	4,444	8,740	4,453	252	320	250	0	60	18	126	80	47
Nunavut	4,418	10,641	6,313	346	850	451	80	170	64	106	106	43
Canada	**762**	**1,034**	**419**	**74**	**57**	**27**	**18**	**13**	**5**	**114**	**104**	**18**

Province and territory	Uttering threats			Break and enter			Motor vehicle theft			Theft of $5,000 or under		
	rate per 100,000 population											
Newfoundland and Labrador	430	323	158	443	396	57	59	78	9	644	878	307
Prince Edward Island	220	227	82	170	220	52	130	51	17	780	1,202	323
Nova Scotia	431	346	131	546	333	48	107	107	13	877	974	289
New Brunswick	299	249	119	261	241	52	178	101	19	1,126	848	236
Quebec	318	249	123	275	212	53	72	75	16	767	588	213
Ontario	145	119	61	181	183	66	59	65	17	1,064	742	312
Manitoba	334	304	159	736	423	94	328	178	39	962	788	327
Saskatchewan	324	365	181	1,286	583	111	472	349	69	1,564	1,052	425
Alberta	206	194	120	251	213	80	184	169	51	938	725	317
British Columbia	141	130	101	127	153	68	55	58	19	793	711	361
Yukon	894	586	573	610	410	125	569	264	82	2,479	1,084	530
Northwest Territories	693	1,060	880	2,332	1,200	319	977	800	134	1,986	1,400	638
Nunavut	852	1,529	1,213	3,993	2,273	693	373	255	86	2,050	1,211	505
Canada	**219**	**187**	**101**	**288**	**223**	**67**	**108**	**95**	**23**	**960**	**727**	**298**

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4 — continued
Persons accused of crime for selected offences, by age group of accused, by province and territory, 2014

Province and territory	Mischief[2]			Disturbing the peace			Administration of justice violations[3]			Drug offences		
	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]	Youth aged 12 to 17	Young adults aged 18 to 24	Older adults aged 25 and older[1]
	rate per 100,000 population											
Newfoundland and Labrador	830	845	278	161	410	195	570	1,118	352	201	541	62
Prince Edward Island	740	476	79	70	103	30	320	601	185	170	440	74
Nova Scotia	970	772	172	205	452	96	773	1,349	403	593	1,173	181
New Brunswick	693	489	77	79	105	35	643	899	261	460	598	114
Quebec	263	187	41	1	4	2	297	954	335	847	988	164
Ontario	345	253	61	51	110	31	371	897	312	610	1,119	200
Manitoba	1,256	1,626	520	427	1,204	661	1,108	2,272	707	455	780	147
Saskatchewan	2,292	2,693	941	373	976	430	3,292	6,557	1,761	739	1,161	224
Alberta	904	1,165	412	336	889	413	941	2,061	795	498	1,051	236
British Columbia	469	398	130	316	872	379	230	718	352	788	1,532	387
Yukon	4,917	7,735	3,911	3,007	9,142	6,610	4,754	4,454	1,998	1,016	1,670	378
Northwest Territories	9,297	22,460	19,703	4,381	10,380	11,076	2,994	6,280	2,250	1,355	2,020	591
Nunavut	5,856	16,992	12,717	3,647	10,896	8,208	772	3,483	2,335	373	1,062	526
Canada	**574**	**585**	**189**	**156**	**399**	**176**	**565**	**1,286**	**441**	**657**	**1,108**	**215**

1. Excludes accused where age is over 89.
2. Includes altering/removing/destroying a vehicle identification number.
3. Includes failure to comply with an order, failure to appear, breach of probation and other violations against the administration of justice.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population in each age group. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Youth crime rates in this report differ slightly from the rates published in CANSIM or the *Juristat* on Police-reported crime statistics as they are produced from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey which uses a different method for counting accused than the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey used for standard dissemination of crime statistics. The administration of the youth justice system is the responsibility of the provinces and territories. Thus, it is important to note that jurisdictional differences in youth crime are, in part, a reflection of the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014.